REPORT
OF THE
DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/46/42)

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", by which the Assembly, inter alia:

"1. Takes note of the annual report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/

"2. Notes with appreciation that the Disarmament Commission has concluded its consideration of all substantive items on its agenda, except the item on objective information on military matters;

"3. Commends the Disarmament Commission for its adoption by consensus of the specific recommendations on the following subjects on its agenda: (a) South Africa's nuclear capability, (b) the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, (c) conventional disarmament and (d) the draft Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade;

"4. Notes that the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission on the item regarding naval armaments and disarmament 2/ are endorsed by all participants in his consultations;

"5. Also notes that no consensus could be reached on specific recommendations for the item regarding various aspects of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, as well as a general approach to negotiations on nuclear and conventional disarmament;

"6. Recalls the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

"7. Stresses the importance for the Disarmament Commission of working on the basis of a relevant agenda of disarmament topics, thereby enabling the Commission to concentrate its efforts and thus optimize its progress on specific subjects in accordance with resolution 37/78 H;

"8. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus a set of 'Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission' at its 1990 substantive session;

"9. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of resolution 37/78 H, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted 'Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission';

"10. Recommends that the Disarmament Commission, as a result of consultations, adopt at its 1990 organizational session the following substantive items for inclusion in the working agenda of the 1991 session of the Commission:

"(1) Objective information on military matters;

"(2) Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons;

"(3) Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security;

"(4) The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields;

"11. Also requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1991 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, 3/ together with all the official records of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

"13. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages, and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services to this end;

"14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled 'Report of the Disarmament Commission'."

2. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters and held four meetings (A/CN.10/PV.151-154) on 4, 19 and 28 December 1990 and 29 January 1991 for a brief organizational session. During that session, the Commission considered questions related to the organization of work for its 1991 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137). The Commission took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the chairmanship among the geographic regions, and elected its Chairman and eight Vice-Chairmen as well as its Rapporteur. The Commission considered and agreed on the provisional agenda for the 1991 substantive session (see para. 5 below). The Commission decided to establish a Committee of the Whole and four working groups to deal with the four substantive items on the agenda and appointed the Chairmen of the Working Groups. The Commission further decided that its next substantive session be held from 22 April to 13 May 1991.

II. ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE 1991 SESSION

3. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 22 April to 13 May 1991. In the course of its session, the Commission held seven plenary meetings (A/CN.10/PV.155-161) under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Hohenfellner (Austria). Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Disarmament Commission.

4. During the 1991 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Peter Hohenfellner (Austria)

Vice-Chairmen: Representatives from the following States:

Cameroon	Germany
Czechoslovakia	Pakistan
Ecuador	Peru
Ethiopia	Poland

Rapporteur: Mr. Bahman Naimi Arfa (Islamic Republic of Iran)

5. At its 155th plenary meeting, on 22 April 1991, the Commission adopted its agenda, contained in document A/CN.10/L.28, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Objective information on military matters.
5. Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons.
6. Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security.
7. The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields.
8. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.
9. Other business.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its general programme of work for the session and decided to allocate four meetings to a general exchange of views.

7. On 22 and 23 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (A/CN.10/PV.155-158).

8. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1990 organizational session, the Disarmament Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4 entitled "Objective information on military matters". Working Group I met under the chairmanship of Mr. André Erdös (Hungary) and held 13 meetings between 24 April and 10 May.

9. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing agenda item 5, entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons". Working Group II met under the chairmanship of Mr. Amre Moussa (Egypt) and his deputy, Mr. Sameh Hassan Shoukry, and held 11 meetings between 24 April and 10 May.

10. The Commission entrusted Working Group III with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 6, entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security". Working Group III met under the chairmanship of Mr. Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia) and held 11 meetings between 24 April and 10 May.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group IV with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 7, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields". Working Group IV met under the chairmanship of Mr. Luiz de Araujo Castro (Brazil) and held 11 meetings between 24 April and 10 May.

12. At its 161st meeting, on 13 May, the Disarmament Commission considered the reports of Working Groups I, II, III and IV on agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7 respectively. The reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission are included in section IV of the present report.

13. In accordance with past practice of the Disarmament Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings as well as the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

III. DOCUMENTATION

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

14. Pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 45/62 B, the Secretary-General, by a note dated 15 March 1991, transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament 3/ together with all the official records of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters (A/CN.10/143).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

15. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted.

16. A working paper entitled "Objective information on military matters: objectives, principles and mechanisms of openness in the military sphere" was submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/CN.10/142/Add.1).

17. A working paper entitled "Objective information on military matters" was submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/CN.10/144 and A/CN.10/144/Rev.1).

18. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields: international transfer of sensitive technologies" was submitted by Argentina and Brazil (A/CN.10/145).

19. A letter was submitted by the head of the Chinese delegation addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission, containing a working paper on the subject of "Objective information on military matters" (A/CN.10/146).

20. A letter was submitted by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary of the Disarmament Commission, containing a working paper on the subject of "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" (A/CN.10/147).

21. A working paper entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons" was submitted by Argentina (A/CN.10/148).

22. A working paper entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security" was submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/CN.10/149).

23. A letter was submitted by Chinese delegation addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission, containing a working paper on the subject of "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" (A/CN.10/150).

24. A working paper entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security" was submitted by Austria (A/CN.10/151).

25. A letter was submitted by the head of the Chinese delegation addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission, containing a working paper on the subject of "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security" (A/CN.10/152).

26. A working paper entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security" was submitted by Ecuador (A/CN.10/153).

27. A working paper entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security - regional disarmament and global security: elements for a regional approach to arms control and disarmament within the context of global security" was submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community (A/CN.10/154).

28. A working paper entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields - science and techology for disarmament" was submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community (A/CN.10/155).

29. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" was submitted by Colombia (A/CN.10/156*).

30. A working paper entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons" was submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/157).

31. A working paper entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security" was submitted by Pakistan (A/CN.10/158).

32. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" was submitted by Austria (A/CN.10/159).

33. A working paper entitled "Objective information on military matters" was submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community (A/CN.10/160).

34. A working paper entitled "Objective information on military matters" was submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/161).

35. A working paper entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security: the relationship between disarmament and global security, and principles and guidelines for regional disarmament and arms control initiatives" was submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/162).

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

36. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields: Conversion of military resources to civilian purposes" was submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/163).

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

37. At its 161st plenary meeting, on 13 May, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies regarding agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of those reports, reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

38. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, as a whole, its report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

39. The report of Working Group I on agenda item 4 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

"1. The Disarmament Commission, at its 151st meeting, on 4 December 1990, approved its provisional agenda for the 1991 substantive session and decided to establish Working Group I to deal with agenda item 4 regarding objective information on military matters, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/62 B.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group I had before it the following working papers:

"(a) Working paper submitted by the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (A/CN.10/142 and Add.1);

"(b) Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/CN.10/144 and Rev.1);

"(c) Working paper submitted by China (A/CN.10/146);

"(d) Working paper submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community (A/CN.10/160);

"(e) Working paper submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/161);

"(f) Conference room papers (A/CN.10/1991/WG.I/CRP.1-12).

"3. The Group met under the Chairmanship of Ambassador André Erdös of Hungary and held 13 meetings between 24 April and 10 May 1991. Mr. Timur Alasaniya of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Working Group.

"4. In 1990, a Consultation Group had already conducted a general exchange of views and held discussions of the related topics according to structure proposed by the Chairman of the Group.

"5. On this basis Working Group I discussed the specific questions which were outlined in an introductory round-up by the Chairman at the 1st meeting on 24 April 1991.

"6. The Working Group decided to structure its discussions under four items: (1) Objectives, (2) Principles, (3) Scope and (4) Mechanisms. The Group adopted a work programme under which it devoted two meetings to each of items (1), (3) and (4), and three meetings to item (2).

"7. In each case the Group had a detailed discussion of the subject. In addition to the proposals submitted in working papers, delegations contributed other proposals, orally or in writing, during the deliberations.

"8. Proposals were compiled into conference room papers, which served as a basis for further discussions.

"9. Basing himself on these compilations and further textual contributions, the Chairman submitted his suggested texts on each of the four headings.

"10. Taking into consideration the comments of delegations, the Chairman, at the 11th meeting on 8 May, presented his suggested text on guidelines for objective information on military matters.

"11. In two meetings, the Group broadly considered the Chairman's suggested text. Delegations offered general comments, including some suggestions for modifications and additions. It was recognized that the Group was not negotiating or engaged in drafting.

"12. In light of those discussions, the Chairman presented a revised version of his text at the last meeting.

"13. It was understood that the Chairman's paper was offered by him on his own responsibility as a working tool. It contained his distillation of views and ideas without being exhaustive or necessarily reflective of all views and ideas. It was recognized that the paper did not commit any delegation at this stage to any particular idea or formulation.

"14. It was decided to annex the Chairman's paper, as contained in A/CN.10/1991/WG.I/CRP.12/Rev.1 of 9 May 1991, to the report of Working Group I (see annex I).

"15. At its 13th meeting, on 10 May, the Working Group adopted by consensus its report on the subject."

40. The report of Working Group II on agenda item 5 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

"1. The Disarmament Commission, at its 151st meeting, on 4 December 1990, approved its provisional agenda for the 1991 substantive session and decided to establish Working Group II to deal with agenda item 5 regarding 'Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons', pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/62 B.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group II had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper submitted by Argentina (A/CN.10/148);

"(b) Working paper submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/157);

"(c) Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/1991/WG.II/CRP.1);

"(d) Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/1991/WG.II/CRP.2).

"3. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Ambassador Amre Moussa of Egypt at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings (24, 25, 26 April and 1 May). At the 4th and 5th meetings (29 and 30 April), the Chairman of the Working Group appointed Mr. Sameh Hassan Shoukry (Egypt) as Acting Chairman. From the 7th meeting, on 2 May, until the 11th meeting on 9 May, the Working Group met under the Chairmanship of Mr. Shoukry. Ms. Jenifer Mackby of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Working Group. The Working Group also conducted informal consultations through the Chairman during this period.

"4. At the beginning of the 1st meeting, the Chairman made an introductory statement. The first two meetings were a general exchange of views on the subject in which numerous delegations participated.

"5. Subsequently, the Group proceeded to a discussion of the following elements related to the subject-matter, according to the structure proposed by the Chairman of the Group:

"1. The relationship between the process of nuclear disarmament and international peace and security;

"2. Review of the steps taken in the process of nuclear disarmament;

"3. Strengthening the process of nuclear disarmament, necessary conditions, and mechanisms required for it;

"4. The role of the United Nations system in the process of nuclear disarmament with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

"6. After a lengthy debate and a series of consultations between the Chair and various delegations regarding a list of specific items on which the Group could focus in the next two years, it was decided to retain the original four points of the structure of work presented by the Chair as a basis for the future work of the Group.

"7. At its 11th meeting, on 9 May, the Working Group decided to annex the Chairman's Paper (A/CN.10/1991/WG.II/CRP.2) on the subject to the report of the Group (see annex II).

"8. At the same meeting the Working Group adopted the present report to the Disarmanent Commission by consensus.

41. The report of Working Group III on agenda item 6 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group III on agenda item 6

"1. The Disarmament Commission, at its 151st meeting, on 4 December 1990, decided to establish Working Group III to deal with agenda item 6 entitled 'Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security'.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group III had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/CN.10/149);

"(b) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by Austria (A/CN.10/151);

"(c) Working paper on China's basic position on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by China (A/CN.10/152);

"(d) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by Ecuador (A/CN.10/153);

"(e) Working paper on regional disarmament and global security: elements for a regional approach to arms control and disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community (A/CN.10/154);

"(f) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by Pakistan (A/CN.10/158);

"(g) Working paper on the relationship between disarmament and global security, and principles and guidelines for regional disarmament and arms control initiatives, submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/162).

"3. Working Group III met under the chairmanship of Ambassador Nugroho Wisnumurti of Indonesia and held 11 meetings between 24 April and 10 May 1991. Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Working Group and Ms. Florence Lee from the same Department acted as Deputy Secretary. The Chairman of the Working Group also conducted a number of informal consultations during this period.

"4. At its 1st meeting on 24 April, the Working Group decided to hold two meetings for a general exchange of views on the agenda item under consideration. A large number of delegations participated in such an exchange of views and, in that connection, many working papers on the subject were submitted, as referred to in paragraph 2.

"5. At the 4th meeting on 29 April, the Working Group agreed to proceed with its consideration of the subject in a structured manner. The Working Group had before it the Chairman's working paper (A/CN.10/1991/WG.III/CRP.2) and a timetable (A/CN.10/1991/WG.III/CRP.3). During the course of deliberations, various views were expressed and proposals were made by delegations on five specific topics under the subject, namely: (1) Relationship between regional disarmament and global security and arms limitation and disarmament; (2) Principles and guidelines; (3) Ways and means; (4) Machineries and modalities; (5) Role of the United Nations.

"6. Following an extensive consideration of the subject-matter, the Chairman presented a paper (A/CN.10/1991/WG.III/CRP.5) to the Working Group, as annexed, containing his own assessment of the discussions and overview of the issues raised under agenda item 6 (see annex III). It was understood that this document did not bind any delegation and that it will be considered further at the 1992 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission.

"7. At its 11th meeting on 10 May, the Working Group adopted by consensus its report on the subject under agenda item 6 to the Disarmament Commission."

42. The report of Working Group IV on agenda item 7 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group IV on agenda item 7

"1. At its 151st meeting on 4 December 1990, the Disarmament Commission approved its provisional agenda for the 1991 substantive session and decided to establish Working Group IV to deal with agenda item 7 entitled 'The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields', pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group IV had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper submitted by Argentina and Brazil on the question of the international transfer of sensitive technologies, the annex to which contains a set of draft guidelines for the regulation of international transfers of high-technology products, services and know-how that may be used for weapons of mass destruction (A/CN.10/145);

"(b) Working paper submitted by India on the question of scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security, which contains comments on the components and on the implications of the qualitative arms race and specific suggestions for action in different fields (A/CN.10/147);

"(c) Working paper submitted by China, which expresses views and suggestions on different aspects of the role of science and technology, including opposition to the use of science and technology for the arms race, in particular the qualitative one (A/CN.10/150);

"(d) Working paper submitted by the Netherlands, on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, on the question of science and technology for disarmament, which contains basic considerations on the subject as well as a list of examples and suggestions for scientific and technological applications in the arms control and disarmament fields (A/CN.10/155);

"(e) Working paper submitted by Colombia which expresses views and suggestions on different aspects of the question of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, in particular in the field of economic and social development (A/CN.10/156);

"(f) Working paper submitted by Austria, which, drawing on the discussions held on different aspects of agenda item 7 and on different working papers, presents a series of ideas for the consideration of the Working Group (A/CN.10/159); and

"(g) Working paper submitted by Canada entitled 'Conversion of military resources to civilian purposes' (A/CN.10/163).

"3. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Ambassador Luiz Augusto de Araujo Castro of Brazil and held 11 meetings between 24 April and 10 May 1991. The Chairman also conducted informal consultations with the Group. Mr. Sammy Kum Buo of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Working Group and Mr. Jack Gerardi-Siebert of the same Department served as Deputy Secretary.

"4. Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the document on 'Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission' (A/45/42, p. 3), the Working Group will have up to three consecutive years to deal with this new item on the agenda of the Commission, it was decided that the 1991 session should be dedicated to what might be defined as brainstorming on the different aspects of the issues involved, so as to seek to define the basis for the more detailed work - including the drafting of recommendations where appropriate - to be carried out in the remaining two years.

"5. For this purpose, the Working Group decided to hold a structured debate, beginning with a general exchange of views on the work of the Group and on all aspects of agenda item 7. It agreed to consider each of four substantive aspects of the item that had been identified in the course of informal consultations as aspects that fall within the mandate of Working Group IV and that the Working Group could consider.

"6. These four aspects or sub-items are:

"1. Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security;

"2. Science and technology for disarmament;

"3. The role of science and technology in other related fields;

"4. The transfer of high technology with military applications.

"7. It was understood that acceptance of this programme of work for the Working Group cannot be interpreted as prejudicing in any manner the positions of delegations on any of these questions or on the different resolutions adopted by the General Assembly or any other documents.

"8. Under sub-item 1, the Working Group considered the issues raised in resolutions 43/77 A, 44/118 A and 45/60 which call for following closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on the security environment and on the process of arms limitation and disarmament and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes as well as in the reports of the Secretary-General contained in documents A/44/487 and Add.1 and 2 and A/45/568, all of which carry the title 'Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security'. In doing so, the Working Group also discussed a broad range of related issues.

"9. Under sub-item 2, the Working Group considered the issues raised in resolutions 44/118 B and 45/61, entitled 'Science and technology for disarmament', which refer to the use of scientific and technological achievements for disarmament-related purposes, such as verification, weapons disposal and the conversion of military industry to civilian purposes.

"10. Under sub-item 3, the Working Group considered the 'other related fields' mentioned in the title of agenda item 7. It was suggested that this could cover areas such as the utilization of resources currently allocated to military activities for the purposes of economic and social development and, as envisaged in resolution 45/58 N, for promoting civilian endeavours to protect the environment.

"11. Under sub-item 4, the Working Group considered, inter alia, the suggestion made by the Secretary-General in his report to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the work of the Organization that 'the international community make a special effort to clarify the important issues involved' in the question of the transfer of high technology that may be used for military applications and to 'produce clear and fair guidelines acceptable to all' (document A/45/1, p. 20).

"12. The discussions held in the Working Group on the different aspects of agenda item 7 were considered to be quite useful. They revealed that the Working Group is very much aware of the basic difficulties of its mandate, a complex, wide-ranging and challenging mandate, encompassing matters that had never before been dealt with in a systematic debate in the United Nations. The debate gave delegations the opportunity to express their opinions and make specific suggestions and proposals on the substantive issues involved; differences of perspective and new ideas and insights were presented in a constructive and cooperative manner. In the course of the discussions, delegations also exchanged preliminary and differing views on how and on which specific questions the Group might most usefully focus its attention in this and in coming sessions of the Disarmament Commission.

"13. On sub-item 1, the Working Group had a brief debate on different aspects of the question of scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security. In the course of the debate, it was pointed out, inter alia, that the qualitative aspects of the arms race should continue to be addressed in disarmament and arms control agreements, that science and technology per se are deemed to be neutral, that the application of science and technology for legitimate defence purposes in accordance with international law is acceptable and their application for peaceful purposes should be promoted. It was also pointed out that the qualitative arms race was a matter of grave concern and that concrete steps were required to prevent the application of science and technology for the qualitative improvement of weapon systems, in particular the weapons of mass destruction. It was also stated that qualitative improvements in the application of science and technology for military purposes may have positive as well as negative implications for international security. Further, it was stated that the exercise of political judgement is a key factor in determining the impact of the use of science and technology for military purposes. The working papers presented that deal with this subject (A/CN.10/147, submitted by India, as well as A/CN.10/150, submitted by China, and A/CN.10/156, submitted by Colombia) were the object of very preliminary comments. It was understood that the Working Group may wish to give further consideration to this question at a later date.

"14. On sub-item 2, on science and technology for disarmament, the Working Group had an extensive debate, in which comments were made in particular on the subject-matter of working paper A/CN.10/155, submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, on the question of the application of science and technology for verification purposes. Interest was expressed in continuing to work on this subject, in the light of this and other documents that may be presented, by seeking to identify the areas in which science and technology may be applied for verification and other disarmament-related purposes, by identifying which of those areas would be more suitable for international cooperation and, finally, by considering the ways in which this international cooperation might be promoted. The Working Group may also, in the future, wish to consider areas such as that of environmentally sound techniques for weapons disposal and the restructuring of former weapons industries, as suggested in working paper A/CN.10/159, submitted by Austria.

"15. On sub-item 3, on the role of science and technology in other related fields, the Working Group had a brief preliminary debate, in the course of which it was suggested that the Working Group may wish to return at a later date to the question of the application of military technology to purposes related to the protection of the environment, in the light, inter alia, of the United Nations study commissioned by resolution 45/58 N, to be completed later this year. Reference was also made in the debate and in working papers A/CN.10/150 and A/CN.10/156, submitted respectively by China and Colombia, to the utilization of scientific and technological resources currently applied to military purposes for the promotion of economic and social development, an aspect which may also bear further consideration. Bearing in mind the mandate

of the Disarmament Commission, the Working Group may wish to discuss these points further and identify other 'related fields' for future consideration.

"16. On sub-item 4, on the transfer of high technology with military applications, the Working Group had an extensive debate in which comments were made in particular on the subject-matter of working paper A/CN.10/145, presented by Argentina and Brazil, which contains a set of draft guidelines, as well as on the relevant part of working paper A/CN.10/159, presented by the delegation of Austria. Interest was expressed in continuing to work on this subject, in the light of these and other documents that may be presented, bearing in mind the proposal for seeking universally acceptable international norms or guidelines that would regulate international transfers of sensitive technologies, while ensuring that such norms do not deny access to high technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes. It was also suggested that, bearing in mind the competence of other relevant bodies, issues for further consideration may include the following: the relation between existing supplier regimes and the proposal for universal norms, the issue of wider participation in existing regimes, the question of the definition of dual use technologies, the promotion of transparency of regulations, procedures and transfers, the scope of international norms and the nature of monitoring, control and verification aspects of such regimes.

"17. At its 11th and final meeting, on 10 May, the Working Group adopted its report."

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/45/42).

2/ Ibid., para. 33.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 27 (A/45/27).

Annex I

Chairman's suggested text on "Guidelines for objective information on military matters"

In order to promote increased openness and transparency on military matters and deeper comprehension of the danger of the arms race, which can be conducive to a better perception of the urgent need for faster progress towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, bearing in mind the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2); taking into account the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures and for the implementation of such measures on a global or regional level, as adopted by consensus by the Commission at its 1988 substantive session and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 43/78 H; in consideration of resolution 44/116 E of 15 December 1989 and resolution 45/62 F of 4 December 1990, has developed the following guidelines for objective information on military matters.

Objectives

Objective information on military matters, though not an end in itself, may serve the following purposes:

1. To encourage openness and transparency on all military matters in order to build confidence, enhance mutual trust and the relaxation of tension and to promote specific disarmament agreements and other concrete disarmament measures leading to strengthened international peace and security, global as well as regional;

2. To facilitate the process of arms limitation, reduction and elimination, and the verification of compliance with obligations assumed in this area;

3. To increase the predictability of military activities;

4. To assist States in determining the level of forces sufficient for an adequate defensive capability and in developing defensive military doctrines;

5. To avert crises and reduce the risk of military conflict, whether intentional or unintentional, by heading off dangerous errors of misperception which could generate or precipitate them;

6. To provide a basis for comprehensive public understanding of disarmament and security related issues.

Principles

All States Members of the United Nations are fully committed to the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and, therefore, should strictly observe its principles as well as other relevant and generally accepted principles of international law relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. In particular, the following principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations must be strictly observed:

(a) Refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State;

(b) Non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

(c) Peaceful settlement of disputes;

(d) Sovereign equality of States and self-determination of peoples.

In addition, actions of States relating to objective information on military matters should be governed by the following:

1. Without prejudice to subsequent principles all States have equal responsibility to provide objective information on military matters and equal rights of access to such information.

2. Bearing in mind the responsibility of all States to provide objective information on military matters, the States with the largest and most sophisticated nuclear and conventional arsenals should take a lead in providing information. They should also enhance the sense of security of other countries and regions by halting their arms race and drastically reducing their armaments, thereby promoting international peace and security.

3. Measures to promote openness and transparency in military matters should be based on the principle of undiminished security for all States.

4. Provision of information should apply to all fields of military activity, including those in outer space and over the high seas.

5. Information should cover all the components of the military potentials of States, including nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and apply to all their national, island and overseas territories.

6. States should agree, through consultations at their own initiative, on practical measures on the exchange of objective information on military matters, in light of their specific situation and political, military and security conditions.

7. The priorities in disarmament established by the General Assembly in the Final Document of its Tenth Special Session should be kept in mind whenever such measures are taken.

8. The content of such exchanges should be consistent in volume and range with the objectives of the regime; be provided on reciprocal basis; the information should be accurate and, if necessary, be subject to verification pursuant to agreed procedures; the data or information on military matters should be comprehensive; be provided on regular basis, and cover both quantitative as well as qualitative aspects. There is no universally applicable formula in this regard.

9. Provision of information in the specific context of disarmament agreements or measures should be based on the specific requirements therein.

10. Information obtained under specific agreements may be restricted to the participants.

11. Measures to promote openness and transparency may be unilateral, bilateral or multilateral, subregional, regional or global, and may use the potential of the United Nations.

12. Such measures should be carried out in conjunction with corresponding efforts to build confidence, to strengthen security and promote disarmament.

13. As an important confidence-building measure, the provision of objective information on military matters can both promote and in its turn be promoted by improvement in the political situation among States concerned.

14. Objective information on military matters should be made accessible to the public of all States to the maximum degree compatible with national security.

Scope

The potential for increase of openness and transparency through provision or exchange of objective information on military matters is as wide as the military field itself. The scope of any particular exercise will depend on the objective pursued and should be defined in accordance with the foregoing principles through consultations on an equal footing by parties concerned and can be adjusted, as necessary, upon their agreement.*

Mechanisms

1. The United Nations should promote openness and transparency on military matters, including, if requested, through data collection and dissemination and provision of advisory services.

2. Unilateral measures as well as bilateral, subregional, regional and other multilateral arrangements should also be utilized to this end.

3. United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament should contribute to these objectives.

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* See appendices I and II.

4. Mechanisms should allow for easy access by the public and interested research institutions to "open" objective information on military matters.

* * *

In view of the foregoing, the following recommendations might merit further consideration:

A. The United Nations reporting system on military expenditures could be:

(a) Given greater recognition through the voluntary submission of annual reports on military expenditures by a growing number of States;

(b) Improved by including in the national reports figures of per capita military expenditures and military expenditures as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP);

(c) Expanded in scope to include information on armed forces and armaments, including chemical and bacteriological weapons, of the participating States;

(d) Progressively extended further to cover additional categories of information on military matters;

thus developed ultimately into a comprehensive international data centre under the auspices of the United Nations.

B. Dependent upon the final outcome of the ongoing United Nations study on conventional arms transfers, the establishment of a United Nations register should be kept in the focus of attention.

C. A group of qualified experts, governmental or international, could be convened at regular intervals to study possible methods of rendering nationally supplied data internationally comparable.

D. With a view to promoting the direct flow and exchange of information, the individual States could formulate bilateral arrangements, such as:

- reciprocal visits and other contacts of military persons,
- exchange of military training programmes and manuals,
- reconnaissance flights over each other's territories and other similar measures, as appropriate.

Appendix I

Containing a list of the multilateral regimes established to date to organize the flow and exchange of information on military matters:

A. Within the United Nations:

- The international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures;

- The system for collecting and distributing national reports on certain "high risk" facilities, unusual outbreaks of infectious diseases, etc., in the context of the BW Convention;

B. Within other multilateral frameworks:

- The IAEA system;

- The information and notification system of the CSCE countries;

- The OPANAL system;

- The Caribbean cooperation system.

Appendix II

Containing an illustrative list of the areas, fields, categories and activities mentioned in various proposals that might be considered by Member States in connection with practical measures of information on military matters:

Military budgets - expenditures

Military related research, development and testing

Arms production, defence construction
Major acquisition programmes
International transfer of arms and services
International military assistance and cooperation

Military strength - structures - organization
Major weapon and equipment systems, other armaments

Manpower (service - civilian)
Defence support activities
Paramilitary formations

Military postures - force disposition
Deployment of major weapon and equipment systems
Foreign military bases

Military doctrines - strategies
Training and education, exercises
Manoeuvres, operations, other major movements

Arms control and disarmament plans, initiatives, negotiations in progress, agreements, measures

Results of verification inspections

Annex II

PROCESS OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Chairman's paper

Working Group II on agenda item 5 of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons", held 11 meetings during the 1991 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission which were preceded by a number of rounds of informal consultations conducted by the Chairman.

During the course of the informal consultations, the Chairman concluded that in this first of three years during which the item would remain on the agenda of the Commission, an approach of a more general, rather than specific nature, to the deliberations would be preferable. This approach, it was felt, would allow for a preliminary free exchange of views from which the Group could arrive to defining the elements and aspects which members consider of importance and worthy of further in-depth consideration.

The Chairman therefore proposed a structure of work which would serve as a guideline for the work of the Group, while at the same time maintaining the general nature of the desired approach. This structure was agreed to by the Group; it included the following four items:

1. The relationship between the process of nuclear disarmament and international peace and security;

2. Review of the steps taken in the process of nuclear disarmament;

3. Strengthening the process of nuclear disarmament, necessary conditions, and mechanisms required for it;

4. The role of the United Nations system in the process of nuclear disarmament with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

During the course of the discussions, a number of elements were identified by the Chairman as aspects which were more frequently raised and deliberated by the members of the Group, and around which different points of view were exchanged; those elements include, inter alia:

The validity of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence;

Ways and means of achieving the priorities set out in SSOD I;

A comprehensive ban on nuclear testing;

A ban on the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

Preventing vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons;

Security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States;

Nuclear-weapon-free zones;

Confidence-building measures;

The role of the United Nations system;

The role of the Conference on Disarmament;

Verification of nuclear disarmament;

Discussion of bilateral nuclear disarmament agreements.

In enumerating these elements, the Chairman would point out that the above sequence should by no means be construed as reflecting any order of priorities, nor prejudicing positions of delegations.

The Chairman also noted that numerous delegations referred to the United Nations Comprehensive Study on Nuclear Weapons as a useful source of reference for the group.

The preliminary discussions of the item in general and around those elements have shown once again the extent of the divergence of points of view, both in terms of substance and perception, concerning the means to achieve progress in this issue. Reaching consensus over this item still seems to be difficult, and many gaps have yet to be bridged.

However, the Chairman believes that this year's session has helped in identifying some aspects on which members of the Group seem interested to deliberate further, and that the Working Group might find it useful to take this process a step further by focusing its work on specific elements that coincide with priorities of the members and on which concrete progress could be achieved.

For this purpose, the Chairman suggests that, without prejudicing in any manner what individual delegations might wish to deliberate in the future, the structure under which this year's discussions were conducted may be elaborated and detailed further to allow for a more in-depth discussion of the item.

Annex III

REGIONAL APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL SECURITY

Chairman's paper

1. The Disarmament Commission has entrusted Working Group III with the task of dealing with agenda item 6 entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security". In discharging its mandate, Working Group III held 11 meetings and two open-ended informal consultations. At the outset, the Working Group had a general exchange of views in two meetings, followed by in-depth substantive discussions.

2. From the substantive discussions on the subject and the working papers and proposals submitted, it is evident that the item has aroused a considerable degree of interest among delegations. It was generally felt that the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the Disarmament Commission is not only pertinent, but also timely.

3. The Chairman feels that important progress was made by Working Group III at the current session of the Disarmament Commission. In the course of deliberations, specific elements of the subject under consideration have been identified and examined; experiences gained in different regions were exchanged and possible areas of common grounds were explored.

4. Further in-depth substantive discussion at the next session of the Disarmament Commission will be necessary in order that a common ground on various elements of the subject could be found. There seems to be a broad understanding, in the view of the Chairman, that in order to facilitate further substantive deliberations on the agenda item next year, it will be useful for the Chairman to provide his own assessment on the main trends of the substantive discussions during the current session, as reflected in this paper, with the understanding that his assessment does not bind any delegation and should be used solely as an aid for further substantive discussions.

5. As stated in the Report of Working Group III, the substantive discussions at the current session have focused on the following topics as suggested by the Chairman in his working paper contained in document A/CN.10/1991/WG.III/CRP.2, which reads as follows:

I. Relationship between regional disarmament and global security and arms limitation and disarmament;

II. Principles and guidelines;

III. Ways and means;

IV. Machineries and modalities;

V. Role of the United Nations.

6. The above topics and all their aspects were closely examined. Various views were expressed and concrete proposals were made in delegations' statements and their working papers. In this regard, progress was made in the identification of elements for each of the topics under consideration. The following is a compilation of general elements on the subject under consideration which emerged during the course of deliberations on agenda item 6. In the view of the Chairman, these elements could serve as a basis for further consideration, without prejudice to the positions of delegations:

I. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REGIONAL DISARMAMENT AND GLOBAL SECURITY AND ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT

Regional and global approaches to disarmament complement each other and should be pursued simultaneously in order to promote regional and international peace and security.

The regional approach to disarmament is one of the essential elements in global efforts.

Any regional measure should take into account the relationship between security in the region and international security as a whole.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements between regions should also enhance global security.

II. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

Any regional arrangement or measure should respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in conformity with international law and treaties including the principle of sovereign equality of all States; non-use or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any State; non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States; the inviolability of international frontiers; the inherent right of States to individual and collective self-defence; and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Regional disarmament agreements should come from within the region itself with full participation of States in the region, on the basis of the principle of sovereign equality of all States. The States in the region themselves should define the region to which such agreements will apply as well as the appropriate and specific conditions for the security of their region.

Any regional measure should be based on arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned.

Any regional approach to disarmament has to take into account the specific conditions and characteristics of the region.

Comprehensive political settlement of regional conflicts constitutes one of the most essential elements for promoting efforts towards regional peace, security and stability as well as arms limitation and disarmament.

Regional disarmament measures should contribute to, and increase, stability within the region on the basis of undiminished security for all the participating States. They should have no harmful effects on States inside and outside the region.

In any regional disarmament process, it is important to seek the elimination of the most destabilizing military capabilities and imbalances.

Regional disarmament efforts should interact positively with bilateral and other regional political initiatives to build confidence.

Regional disarmament efforts should aim at preventing military imbalances and tensions in one area from spreading to other areas.

Regional security arrangements and disarmament measures should be pursued in order to enhance security at the lowest possible level of military forces, curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Regional disarmament measures should cover all aspects of arms limitation and disarmament taking into account the specific conditions and characteristics of the region concerned.

Regions where serious military confrontation and high armaments concentrations exist should take the lead in concluding and implementing disarmament agreements establishing a mutually acceptable military balance in the region through equitable and balanced reduction of armed forces ensuring equal and undiminished security of all States at the lowest level of armaments and armed forces.

Regional disarmament agreements should contribute to the promotion of economic and social development.

Respect for the principle of peaceful uses of the ocean is essential for the promotion of the regional approach to disarmament.

The prevention of the extension of an arms race to outer space should promote the regional approach to disarmament.

Regional disarmament agreements concerning transparency and openness freely arrived at by States in the region, taking into account the specific conditions and characteristics of the region concerned, are essential to progress towards regional arms limitation and disarmament.

Respect of extraregional States for regional disarmament initiatives and agreements is necessary.

Verification measures are essential to ensure the effective compliance with regional arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

Security arrangement of one region, while it could be useful as a guide to other regions, should not necessarily be applicable to other regions given that conditions and characteristics differ from region to region.

Socio-economic cooperation among States in the region facilitates efforts to enhance regional security and stability.

III. WAYS AND MEANS

Confidence- and security-building measures

"Guidelines for confidence-building measures at the global and regional levels" which were adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1988 should serve as a general guideline for all States in their regional approach to arms limitation and disarmament.

Confidence- and security-building measures could be considered within the regions, at unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, in order to facilitate the arms limitation and disarmament process. Such measures as notification of large-scale military activities and exchange of military data, reduction of risks, objective information on military activities and capabilities, open skies policy, dialogue and cooperation including in non-military areas, within the context of the particular region, could reduce the risk of misinterpretation and miscalculation and foster transparency and openness.

Appropriate verification for compliance with the confidence- and security-building measures is essential.

The experience of individual regions, where important progress has been achieved in the implementation of such measures, could be utilized as a guide in other regions provided that such measures are freely arrived at by States in the region in the light of the specific conditions and characteristics of the region.

Confidence- and security-building measures could be adopted among the regions in addition to within the region.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements

Appropriate regional disarmament measures initiated and participated by States in the region will be conducive to the relaxation of tension in the region concerned, and should have a positive bearing on other regions as well as global efforts for peace, security and disarmament.

Regional disarmament measures should seek to establish a military balance at the lowest level of armaments and armed forces and eliminate the capability for surprise attack and large-scale offensive action. States should not seek an armament and military spending level that exceeds their legitimate self-defence requirements.

Regional disarmament measures should include those aimed at curbing the spread of missile technology and technology for weapons of mass destruction, to be applied on a universal and non-discriminative basis.

There is an urgent need to conclude regional agreements regulating and restricting the acquisition of arms, whether from international transfers or from indigenous production, without the effect of undermining the self-defence capability of the States concerned.

In regional agreements on arms limitation and disarmament, it is essential to ensure that disarmament measures in one region would not lead to increased arms transfers to other regions.

Regional disarmament agreements establishing a mutually acceptable military balance in the region through equitable and balanced reduction of armed forces ensuring equal and undiminished security of all States at the lowest level of armaments and armed forces are necessary.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements should aim at the reduction of armaments and military forces. Forces thus reduced should be demobilized and weapons, equipment and facilities thus reduced should be disposed of by means of destruction or conversion. Those weapons and facilities should neither be adapted to other weapons systems or redeployed in other regions, nor transferred or sold to other countries, should they have a destabilizing effect.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements should seek to reduce and ultimately eliminate completely all forms of foreign military presence and dismantle their military bases and installations in the regions concerned, without undermining the inherent right of States to individual and collective self-defence.

The consensus text of recommendations on conventional disarmament which was adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission should serve as a general guideline for all States in their regional approach to arms limitation and disarmament.

Appropriate verification of compliance with regional arms limitation and disarmament agreements and treaties is essential.

The 16 principles on verification adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1988 should be observed by all States in their efforts in implementing regional arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

Zones of peace and zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction

The establishment of zones of peace and cooperation in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole. Any regional disarmament arrangement establishing such zones may include concrete measures to ensure that the regions concerned are free from the arms race, presence of foreign bases and nuclear weapons; to seek reduction and eventual elimination of military presence of extraregional States; to respect the principle of peaceful uses of the ocean; and to prevent extension of rivalries and conflicts foreign to the regions.

The establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned constitutes an important disarmament measure. The process of establishing such zones in different parts of the world should be encouraged with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons. In the process of establishing such zones, the characteristics of each region should be taken into account. The States participating in such zones should undertake to comply fully with all the objectives, purposes and principles of the agreements or arrangements establishing the zones, thus ensuring that they are genuinely free from nuclear weapons.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the zones of peace and cooperation and zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, appropriate steps should be undertaken to assure that extraregional States respect the status of such zones and their commitment thereto, and refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against the States of these zones.

Non-proliferation regime

The establishment of a universally adhered to regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects will facilitate the process of regional arms limitation and disarmament.

IV. MACHINERIES AND MODALITIES

The establishment of regional consultative forums on peace, security, cooperation and development would facilitate regional approach to arms limitation and disarmament.

Regional and interregional arrangements for exchange of information and cooperation could be considered.

Reference should be made to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations regarding regional arrangements.

V. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Providing support and facilitating all regional disarmament efforts in cooperation with other appropriate United Nations bodies and international organizations. In this context, reference should be made to the report adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1990 regarding the role of the United Nations.

Collecting and disseminating information on arms limitation and disarmament to facilitate regional disarmament efforts.

Enhancing the functions of the existing United Nations regional centres for peace, disarmament and development and regional economic and social affairs commissions to promote dialogue as an integral part of efforts for promoting regional peace and security.

Serving as a resource centre of expertise of arms limitation and disarmament to facilitate regional disarmament efforts.

Coordinating and organizing conferences on regional disarmament issues including confidence- and security-building measures.

Establishing, as and when the States parties so request, mechanisms for verification of compliance with regional treaties and agreements.

The recommendations on the role of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament which were adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1990 should serve as useful guidelines for enhancing the role of the United Nations with respect to regional approach to arms limitation and disarmament.

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